Regulatory authority for airports

729. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a regulatory authority to monitor the functioning of various domestic and international airports in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that a legislation is likely to be enacted in this respect;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of steps being taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) is proposed to be set up, through an Act of Parliament, to fix, review and approve tariff structure for the aeronautical services and monitor pre-set performance standards at Indian airports. The Authority will ensure a level playing field for all categories of airport operators and also oversee and deal with natural monopoly and common user/carrier segments of airports.

(d) A draft Cabinet Note along with draft AERA Bill has been circulated to Ministries/Departments concerned for their comments.

New civil airport at Ramanathapuram

730. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while the Navy's Airport at Uchipuli in Ramanathapuram District, Tamil Nadu is being developed, a new civil airport at Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu is being conceived and preliminaries have been undertaken; and

(b) if so, the present status and progress of the said airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) There is no proposal for development of a new civil airport at Ramanathapuram.